Attorney's Docket No.: 0050-0012 U.S. Serial No.: 09/977,227

Page 3

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment adds the priority information claimed by Applicants to the beginning of the specification. Favorable examination is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 50-1070 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

HARRITY & SNYDER, L.L.P.

 $\mathbf{R}\mathbf{v}$

Paul A. Harrity

Reg. No. 39,574

11240 Waples Mill Road Suite 300 Fairfax, Virginia 22030 (571) 432-0800 Customer No. 44987

Date: March 4, 2005